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HPSC I

October 9, 1978

Representative Les Aspin
Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Aspin:

Thank you for your letter of September 28, 1978, sent in your capacity as Chairman, Oversight Subcommittee, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U. S. House of Representatives.

I have no argument with your [redacted] a published study; it would have been useful for your Subcommittee to ask why he wrote it - at whose instigation - who were his sources? 25X1

Responding to your second point, background investigation without technical corroboration virtually is useless where sensitive clearances such as access to Clandestine Services operations and methods are involved. Anyone with routine access to these areas should undergo polygraphic examinations and technical surveillance as a matter of routine. This should include members of congress, their staff, all levels of the Executive Branch and anyone else so cleared. We are not after all playing games; unauthorized revelations of sensitive national security matters should be treated as treasonable under the law and in fact.

As to your third point, your judgment on security leaks is limited, perforce, by knowledge and experience. What is strikingly inherent in the example cited, however, is the rote association of CIA and the Clandestine Services. If you would review the legislative history you would understand that CIA was supposed to provide cover for the Clandestine Services. Exactly the opposite has happened.

Let me commend to your attention the enclosed article by Michael Novak. He has got it about right. I hope a similar realization may come soon to the Select Intelligence Committees.

With all good wishes to you.

Sincerely,

RHC

cc: Messrs. Field & Sulzberger;
✓ Admiral Turner, Rep. Boland

P.S. When may I expect some indication

Michael Novak

We Face Something Worse Than The Cold War

NYC
10 Oct 78

In London this September, a broadcaster for Radio Free Europe was boarding a bus when a man with an umbrella charged forward and jabbed him in the thigh with the tip of his umbrella. Apparently poisoned, this critic of communism died three days later. Those who daily risk their lives to criticize the Soviet empire often lose their lives.

A month earlier, a young American, briefly an employee of the CIA, was finally arrested a long time after he had turned over to Soviet agents plans for a key American spy satellite, on which the United States critically depends for verification of Soviet arms behavior. Watchers of the satellite had detected suddenly successful Soviet defensive operations.

In "Commentary" magazine for September, a highly trained Soviet dissident now in the United States asserts that the United States has no secret agents on the ground in the Soviet Union. He says the CIA has to translate Soviet publications (prop-

aganda) for its estimates of Soviet economic agricultural and military behavior.

The American capacity for intelligence has been systematically shattered by attacks from Congress, from its own employees, and from — it is now widely believed — the penetration of Soviet agents high into the CIA itself. The ability of the CIA to protect its own agents around the world has been undermined by public committees that publish information identifying every U.S. agent abroad. Many dedicated persons are thus eliminated.

The liberal convention of the last decade or so has been to try to cripple the CIA and the FBI. Who has counted the costs?

WEST GERMAN intelligence estimates that the Soviet KGB maintains more than 100,000 agents in Western Europe, many of them under deep cover. In recent years, Soviet penetration reached as high

as Chancellor Willy Brandt's personal secretary. It also netted a top general in Switzerland.

"Liberation armies" in a score of countries are given salaries and supplied from outside. The Palestine Liberation Organization has access to millions of dollars of costly funneled arms, training and international liaison. The PLO does not support itself by popular sentiment, speeches, rhetoric and passing the plate. Hard cash — most of it from various Arab factions — keeps it active. Shiny weapons are its voice.

Peace, nowadays, is war carried out by other means. If the United States does not have the capability to conduct covert operations, it has no intermediate instrument between diplomatic rhetoric and open warfare. This is acceptable to those who believe that international politics is conducted by reasonable and moral men, judiciously choosing the moral thing to do. In a humane and reasonable world, some believe, force is an

improper instrument of policy. But this is a serious mistake.

Reasonable discourse is always affected by superior force. To those with lesser force, the person with greater force begins to sound reasonable. When the costs of disagreement go up, the weak quietly acquiesce. It becomes reasonable to choose surrender rather than useless bloodshed.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS of the United States believed unequivocally in the importance of covert intelligence and covert operations. Benjamin Franklin practiced the profession of spying both in Great Britain and in France. George Washington made covert operations central in the Revolutionary Army. A nation without superior intelligence and the capacity for covert uses of force risks death.

As the population of the United States becomes more educated, serious observers cannot help noting a

withdrawal from reality. Global warfare is unpleasant to contemplate. Better to jog, to sip wine and nibble cheese, to search for one's own identity, and to believe that the world is run by morality and reason. Call those who worry about the superior capabilities of the enemy "cold warriors."

But this is not the Cold War. The Cold War ended years ago, when the Soviet Union was relatively weak. Now the Soviet Union is a military empire, governed by secret police, with capabilities for covert and overt action on every continent and in every ocean. We have put the Cold War behind us. We lost it. What we face now is too awful to contemplate. Most prefer not to.

Young Ph.D.s looking for jobs might well consider the CIA — or, preferably, a new and more efficient organization. We need a covert force of high-minded and skillful talents. We need it urgently.

(Washington Star Syndicate)

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